

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 L-03 /038 W

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P 111850Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1118

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 3388

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

FOR ARA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CS, US

SUBJECT: ODUBER'S GETTER TO LA NACION

REF: SAN JOSE 3354

1. ACTING FONMIN CALLED IN ACTING DEAN AND SECRETARY OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS AUGUST 8 IN RESPONSE TO THEIR REPRESENTATION TO HIM REGARDING ODUBER'S LETTER TO LA NACION. ACTING FONMIN SAID ODUBER HAD ASKED HIM TO STATE THAT REFERENCE TO DIPLOMATS WAS AIMED ONLY AT WELL KNOWN AND PUBLICIZED CASE OF A US DIPLOMAT WHO WAS ASKED TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY SEVERAL YEARS AGO. ODUBER GAVE ASSURANCE THAT HIS REMARKS WERE NOT DIRECTED AT THE DIPLOMATS IN GENERAL AND HE REGRETTED ANY MISINTERPRETATION IN THAT REGARD.

2. UNFORTUNATELY FOR ODUBER, TIJG-TIME RESIDENT DIPLOMATS KNOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO KNOWN INSTANCE OF EXPULSION OF ANY U.S. DIPLOMAT SINCE ARRIVAL OF VESCO TO WHOM PARAGRAPH IN ODUBER'S LETTER SPECIFICALLY REFERRED. THEY CONCLUDE THEREFORE THAT ODUBER HAS BEEN LESS THAN FRANK AND FORTHRIGHT WITH THEM. NEVERTHELESS, THEY BELIEVE THAT THEIR APPROACH TO FOREIGN MINISTRY WAS USEFUL SINCE IT INDICATED CARE WITH WHICH THEY ARE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS AND THEIR INTENTION NOT TO BE PUT IN THE MIDDLE OF POLITICAL FIGHTS. THEY HOPE THIS MAY

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CAUSE ODUBER TO BE A BIT MORE CAREFUL IN FUTURE STATEMENTS.

3. COMMENT: NOW THAT ODUBER HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF AS
HAVING REFERRED TO VERY MUCH EARLIER CASE, HE MIGHT FIND IT
DIFFICULT AND INADVISABLE TO SAY ANYTHING DIFFERENT TO THE
PRESS. LA NACION HAS COMPLETED ITS THREE-PART RESPONSE
TO THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER AND THAT MAY BE THE END OF THIS
MATTER-- FOR A WHILE AT LEAST.
LANE

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